



# California Postsecondary Education Commission

770 L Street, Suite 1160 • Sacramento, California 95814

[www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov) • (916) 445-1000

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Contact

Karen Humphrey

[khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov](mailto:khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov) • (916) 445-1504

## Cal Poly Pomona Awarded \$982,197 Improving Teacher Quality Grant

SACRAMENTO — November 7, 2005 — California State Polytechnic University Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) has won funding for a new project to help high school teachers in the El Monte Union High School District better support the reading, writing, and thinking skills of students throughout the district. The university was awarded a four-year grant of \$986,078 by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in a statewide competition. Known as Project STELLAR<sup>2</sup>, the effort will combine intensive summer institutes, coaching, and collaborative planning in four target schools to enable teachers to help improve academic achievement in the high poverty, low-achieving school district. 90 teachers will be trained directly, and more than 300 additional teachers will indirectly benefit from implementation of the project.

The grant is part of the federal Improving Teacher Quality Program funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the latest edition of a long-standing federal program aimed at improving student achievement through professional development for teachers. Over two decades of administering the program, CPEC has awarded more than \$75 million to colleges and universities working with high-need K-12 schools throughout California. The 2005 grants focus on improving academic literacy in high schools. They also require rigorous evaluation research to demonstrate how the professional development affects student achievement.

Taking note of this requirement, CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman observed that “Being required to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement, not just on teacher behavior, is critical and supports CPEC’s overall commitment to accountability in educational programs.”

Howard Welinsky, chairman of the Commission, says the grants play an important role in making sure every student has a highly qualified teacher. “The program has had a long-term impact on helping teachers strengthen their content knowledge and their understanding of effective teaching strategies—key elements of education reform,” he said. “Cal Poly Pomona and its partner schools should be proud of the quality of their proposal and its potential for improving teaching and learning in the San Gabriel Valley.”

More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov). For more information about the state program, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or [khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov](mailto:khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov). For information on the project described above, contact Dr. Dorothy MacNevin at 909-869-2311 or [dmacnevin@csupomona.edu](mailto:dmacnevin@csupomona.edu).

###

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.